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a.) Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled).

18. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising an antibody, wherein said antibody specifically binds an isolated IL-13bc protein consisting of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4;

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 from amino acids 26 to 341; and

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 from amino acids 363 to 380.

Claims 19-40 (Cancelled).

41. (Previously Presented) A method of inhibiting binding of IL-13 or fragments of IL-13 to the IL-13 receptor in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising an antibody, wherein said antibody specifically binds an isolated IL-13bc protein consisting of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4;

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 from amino acids 26 to 341; and

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 from amino acids 363 to 380.

Claims 42-45 (Cancelled).

46. (Previously Presented) An isolated antibody that specifically binds a human IL-13bc protein, wherein said human IL-13bc protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4;

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 from amino acid 26 to 341; and

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 from amino acids 363 to 380.

47. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 46, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody.

48. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 46, wherein the antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

49. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 48, wherein the neutralizing antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the antibody according to claim 46.

52. (Cancelled).

53. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting binding of IL-13 to the IL-13 receptor in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering [[a]] therapeutically an effective amount of a composition comprising an antibody according to claim 46.

54. (Previously Presented) An isolated antibody that inhibits binding of IL-13 or fragments of IL-13 to IL-13bc or the IL-13 receptor, wherein said IL-13bc comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4; the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 from amino acids 26 to 341; and the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 from amino acids 363 to 380.

55. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 54, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody.

56. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 54, wherein the antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

57. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 56, wherein the neutralizing antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

58. (Cancelled).

59. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the antibody according to claim 54.

60. (Cancelled).

61 (Previously Presented) A method of inhibiting binding IL-13 to the IL-13 receptor in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising an antibody according to claim 54.

62. (Currently Amended) An isolated antibody to a fragment of IL-13bc, wherein said fragment of IL-13bc binds to IL-13 ~~or a biologically active fragment thereof with a K<sub>D</sub> of from 0.1 to 100 nM.~~

63. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 62, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody.

64. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 62, wherein the antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

65. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 64, wherein the neutralizing antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

66. (Cancelled).

67. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the antibody according to claim 62.

68. (Cancelled).

69. (Previously Presented) A method of inhibiting binding IL-13 to the IL-13 receptor in a mammalian subject, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising an antibody according to claim 62.

Claims 70-77 (Cancelled)

78. (Currently Amended) The antibody to a IL-13bc variant protein encoded by a nucleic acid sequence which hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 under ~~highly stringent~~ wash conditions of 2X SSC at 52°C, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes a protein that binds to IL-13 or a biologically active fragment thereof.

79. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 78, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody.

80. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 78, wherein the antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

81. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 80, wherein the neutralizing antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

82. (Cancelled).

83. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the antibody according to claim 78.

84. (Cancelled).

85. (Previously Presented) A method of inhibiting binding IL-13 to the IL-13 receptor in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising an antibody according to claim 78.

86. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 18, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

88. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 54, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

89. (Currently Amended) An antibody to a IL-13bc variant protein that is at least about 95% identical to a protein selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4; and the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 from amino acids 26 to 341; wherein the IL-13bc variant protein binds to IL-13 ~~or a biologically active fragment thereof~~.

90. (Previously Presented) The body of claim 89, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody.

91. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 89, wherein the antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

92. (Previously Presented) The antibody of claim 91, wherein the neutralizing antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

93. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the antibody according to claim 89.

94. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 94, further comprising a pharmaceutical carrier.

95. (Cancelled).

96. (Previously Presented) A method of inhibiting binding IL-13 to the IL-13 receptor in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering a

therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising an antibody according to claim 89.

97. (Previously Presented) A method of treating or inhibiting allergic conditions in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering to the mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising the antibody according to claim 46.

98. (Previously Presented) A method of treating or inhibiting asthma in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering to the mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising the antibody according to claim 46.

99. (Previously Presented) A method of treating or inhibiting allergic conditions in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering to the mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising the antibody according to claim 54.

100. (Previously Presented) A method of treating or inhibiting asthma in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering to the mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising the antibody according to claim 54.

101. (Previously Presented) A method of treating or inhibiting allergic conditions in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering to the

mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising the antibody according to claim 78.

102. (Previously Presented) A method of treating or inhibiting asthma in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering to the mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising the antibody according to claim 78.

103. (Previously Presented) A method of treating or inhibiting allergic conditions in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering to the mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising the antibody according to claim 89.

104. (Previously Presented) A method of treating or inhibiting asthma in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering to the mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising the antibody according to claim 89.

105. (New) A method of treating cancer in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering to the mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising the antibody according to claim 46.

106. (New) The method of claim 105, wherein the mammalian subject is a human.

107. (New) The method of claim 106, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody.

108. (New) The method of claim 106, wherein the antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

109. (New) The method of claim 108, wherein the neutralizing antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

110. (New) A method of treating cancer in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering to the mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising the antibody according to claim 54.

111. (New) The method of claim 110, wherein the mammalian subject is a human.

112. (New) The method of claim 111, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody.

113. (New) The method of claim 111, wherein the antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

114. (New) The method of claim 113, wherein the neutralizing antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

115. (New) A method of treating cancer in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering to the mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising the antibody according to claim 62.

116. (New) The method of claim 115, wherein the mammalian subject is a human.

117. (New) The method of claim 116, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody.

118. (New) The method of claim 116, wherein the antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

119. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein the neutralizing antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

120. (New) A method of treating cancer in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering to the mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising the antibody according to claim 78.

121. (New) The method of claim 120, wherein the mammalian subject is a human.

122. (New) The method of claim 121, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody.

123. (New) The method of claim 121, wherein the antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

124. (New) The method of claim 123, wherein the neutralizing antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

125. (New) A method of treating cancer in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering to the mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising the antibody according to claim 89.

126. (New) The method of claim 125, wherein the mammalian subject is a human.

127. (New) The method of claim 126, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody.

128. (New) The method of claim 126, wherein the antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

129. (New) The method of claim 128, wherein the neutralizing antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

130. (New) A method of treating or inhibiting allergic conditions in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering to the mammalian subject a

therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising the antibody according to claim 62.

131. (New) A method of treating or inhibiting asthma in a mammalian subject, the method comprising administering to the mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising the antibody according to claim 62.